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February 15, 2000

Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to you to urge you and the FDA to quickly follow the lead of the European Union in banning the use in livestock of growth-promoting antibiotics that are used in human medicine.

The long-term risk of promoting the evolution of untreatable bacterial infections far outweighs the perceived current economic benefits of such use.

For example, after the ban in Denmark (1995) two growth measures in poultry (average feed consumption per weight and average weight at six weeks) actually slightly increased. Meanwhile, poultry prices increased by only 1 cent per pound. This is tiny price to pay for the continued efficacy of existing types of antibiotics in medicine.

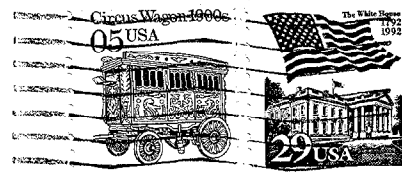
Sincerely yours,

Dmitry Gokhman

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